

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Original) A surface coated phosphor comprising a thin coating of a rare earth oxide disposed on an uncoated phosphor.
2. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 1, wherein said uncoated phosphor is a sulfide or oxide phosphor.
3. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 2, wherein said uncoated phosphor is a sulfide phosphor.
4. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 3, wherein said sulfide phosphor is a ZnS based phosphor.
5. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 4, wherein said ZnS based phosphor is selected from the group consisting of ZnS:Cu; ZnS:Cu,Al; (Zn,Cd)S:Ag,Al; and combinations thereof.
6. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 5, wherein said ZnS based phosphor is ZnS:Cu.
7. (Original) The surface coated phosphor of claim 1, wherein said rare earth oxide is  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ .

Claims 8-35 (Canceled).